available by the Petroleum Ministry. When we get the assurance from the Petroleum Ministry, we clear the project. The situation today in Gandhar Gas field is, the total gas which was anticipated to be available is not available today. The Chief Minister of Gujarat has written to me a letter and he has also telephoned me that people in Gujarat are pleading for power; "Please supply gas so that these units can be synchronised." The Petroleum Ministry has replied that gas is not available from the Gandhar field. Therefore, we are trying to lay down a pipeline from Hazira to Utran which is situated at six kilometres' distance. The Hazira gas is committed to various projects. But those projects have not been synchronised. Therefore, gas can be made available after laying pipeline from Hazira to Utran. When the Gandhar field will be exploited and gas will be available then Utran pipeline will be laid and gas will be made available to them. For that I have written a letter to the Petroleum Minister, Shri B. Shankaranand. I have made a request to him in this connection. They have said that the Gujarat Electricity Board should have entered into an agreement. But they did not do that. Therefore, we could not fulfil the commitment that we had made to the Gujarat Electricity Board. (*Interruptions*) It is not my commitment. They have said that the Gujarat Electricity Board has not paid Rs. 80 crores. Therefore, we have not laid down the pipeline. We have spoken to the Petroleum Ministry. They have assured me that at the earliest gas will be made available to Utran project and units will be synchronised.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I am very happy that certain important facts have come out. I know that the Gujarat Government will not be so lethargic in paying Rs. 20 crores because they are not able to commission 100 MW gas turbine which is ready since long. Therefore, it is between you and them to sort it out. Now you have admitted that gas is available from Hazira. It is being diverted for the people who are not using it. So only a six-kilometre pipeline is not a big issue. Therefore, whatever facts you have given, I am satisfied with them. Now would you please pursue the matter with the Gujarat Government? The Gujarat Government will be giving the money very soon. Rs. 20 crores is not a big amount if it is due.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Sir, as the hon. Member is worried for power in Gujarat, I am equally worried, I can assure him that I will request and pursue the matter. The pipeline from Hazira to Gandhar will be laid at the earliest and gas will be made available.

श्री सोमपाल: सभापति महोदय, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में लिखा है कि प्रत्येक 33 मैगावाट वाले गैस टरबाइन के लिए गैस सप्लाई की प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है और गैस प्राप्त होने पर इसे चालू किया जाएगा। आपने यह नहीं लिखा कि कितने टरबाइन आपने पूरे कर लिए हैं। मेरी जानकारी के अनुसार 200 करोड़ रुपए का पूंजी व्यय इस परियोजना के ऊपर हो चुका है और इससे बनने वाली बिजली और उस बिजली से होने वाले लाभ तो कई सौ या कई हजार गुना होगा केवल 6 किलोमीटर की लाइन के लिए और जिसके लिए वचन दिया जा चुका है इस हाऊस में। उसके लिए गैस क्यों नहीं दी जा रही है जब कि बड़ी मात्रा में गैस व्यय हो रही है और दूसरी तरफ बेकार जा रही है, जहां इसका इस्तेमाल नहीं हो रहा है। यह कब तक होगा, यह स्पैसिफिकली बताइए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Social Audit of the Telecommunication and Postal Services

*447. SHRI KAPIL VARMA:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any Committee for the social audit of the telecommunication and postal services and to look into the complaints of the public;

(b) if so, what are the names of the members of the Committee and what will be their functions and powers; and

(c) what measures are being taken by Government to improve the postal delivery system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition, powers and

functions of the social Audit Panel is contained in Resolution No. 2-3/92-TCO. dated 27-3-1992, a copy of which is given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) To improve delivery at destination, system of delivery of mails has been restructured. The number of deliveries of receipted mail has been increased from one to two and the number of deliveries of ordinary mail from two to three in some big cities. This restructuring will ensure that maximum volume of mail is given out for delivery on the day of receipt in post offices.

Statement

TO BE PUBLISHED IN PART-I SECTION-I OF GAZETTE OF INDIA

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENTS OF TELECOM. & POSTS

Sanchar Bhawan,
20, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi-110001
Dated : 27th March, 1992

RESOLUTION

Subject: Constitution of a Social Audit Panel for the Ministry of Communications.

No. 2-3/92-TCO. The Ministry of Communications have constituted a Social Audit Panel as an ongoing mechanism to provide useful inputs in evaluating its social investments in providing telecom. and postal facilities especially in the rural and semi-urban sector. The rapid pace of growth in these services may also in its wake pose various problems vis-a-vis the expectation of the consumers in particular and society in general, to which effective solutions would have to be found. The panel would provide inputs in finding optional solutions to such problems.

2. The panel may address itself to the following areas of activities.

TELECOM SERVICES

(a) Accessibility to telecom services in rural areas vis-a-vis that in urban areas;

(b) Accelerating the functions of Grievances redressal machinery including Telephone Adalats;

(c) The issues relating to socio-economic impact as a result of growth of telecom. network.

POSTAL SERVICES

(x) Societal needs that could be satisfied and how the existing Postal Services could be augmented, modified to achieve them especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

(y) Lacunae in the present functioning of the postal system vis-a-vis fulfilment of societal wants and redressal of public grievances;

(z) Social cost benefit analysis of postal service specially loss making postal products/services.

3. The Panel will consist of the following:—

(1) Justice P.N. Bhagwati—Chairman (Retd.)

(2) D[illegible]askar Rao—Contractor
Eminent
Sociologist

(3) Mr. Khushwant Singh—Member
Eminent
Journalist

(4) Admiral S. Chopra—Member (Retd.)

(5) Air Marshal J. K. Seth—Member (Retd.)

4. The Panel may adopt its own procedures and make recommendations. In making recommendations the panel may give consideration to the following matters :

(i) whether the benefit is actually reaching the target groups in the manner intended;

(ii) whether the social resources available are adequately utilised in effective manner;

(iii) whether the expansion of net-work is equitable and productive.

5. The initial period of the panel is upto 31st March, 1994.

6. The non-official members of the Panel would be entitled to travelling allowance as per Ministry of Finance O.M. No. F. 6(26)-EIV/59 dated 5-9-60

as amended from time to time and other facilities necessary for carrying out the assignment.

(Sd/-)
(R. RAMANUJAM)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

ORDER

Ordered that a copy of the resolution be communicated to all the office bearers of the Panel.

Ordered also that this resolution be published in Gazette of India.

(Sd/-)
(R. RAMANUJAM)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Manager,
Govt. of India Press,
FARIDABAD.

Copy to:

1. All Office Bearers of the Panel,
2. P.S. to MOS (C)/Dy. M(C),
3. Chairman, Telecom. Commission/ Secretary (P),
4. All Members/Advisors, Telecom. Commission,
5. All Members, Postal Services Board,
6. Addl. Secretary, Department of Telecom.,
7. Joint Secretary (A & P)/Secretary (PSB),
8. Sr. DDG(CS)., He will function as link officer for Department of Telecom.,
9. DDG(PG)., He will function as link officer for Department of Posts.

(Sd/-)
(R. RAMANUJAM)
Joint Secretary to the Government of Inida.

Audit of entire financial sector by C & AG

*448. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 125 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has claimed overall authority for auditing the financial sector including the nationalised banks and public financial institutions;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to entrust the audit of the accounts of the banks and financial institutions to C&AG pending the creation of a Supervisory Board;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Reserve Bank of India, Banks and Financial Institutions have opposed the C&AG having access to financial information of these units;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (e) Government have not received any communication from the C & AG in the recent past claiming the over-all authority for auditing the accounts of the financial sector including the nationalised banks and public financial institutions. However, demands have been made from time to time for entrusting the Comptroller and Auditor General of India with the audit of public sector banks/public financial institutions.

The question of bringing the audit of public sector banks and financial institutions within the purview of C & AG has been examined in the past in consultation with Reserve Bank of India. In terms of the statutes governing these institutions, their accounts are required to be audited by the auditors who are qualified to act as auditors under the